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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

Report of the Secretary-General

Introduction

1. This report is submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/11 of 9 April 1998, in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of all Member States and seek their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations, and to submit a report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session.

2. In accordance with paragraph 8 (b) of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 6 August 1998, invited Member States to transmit information relevant to the subject-matter.

3. As at 1 December 1998, a reply had been received from the Government of Colombia. The reply of the Government of Colombia is summarized in the present document; any additional replies will be submitted in an addendum.

Colombia

[6 November 1998]
[Original: Spanish]

The Colombian State has expressed its complete rejection of unilateral coercive measures in various international forums. The Government of Colombia takes this opportunity to reiterate its opposition to the use of such measures, which it considers to be violations of the principles of international law governing relations between States and resulting in serious violations of fundamental human rights.

The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures in the fields of international relations, trade, investment and cooperation is beyond doubt. In this respect, the Eleventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Río Group (Asunción, 23 and 24 August 1997) adopted a declaration in which, inter alia, the heads of State and Government rejected such measures, expressed their intention to strengthen their positions to that effect in regional and international forums and emphasized the importance of strengthening multilateralism and international cooperation.

Colombia has also given its full backing to the appeal of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, to the effect that States should refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights.

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